GO!

Seven big movies open, some actually worth watching • PAGE 5

David Lindley remembers Warren Zevon's sandwich • PAGE 14

A monster walks from the book to the stage • PAGE 25

September 19, 2003 | The Gazette's weekly arts & entertainment magazine | www.gazette.com | www.coloradosprings.com

MOREQUEEREYES

Film festival explores the complexities of modern gay life

PAGE 4

CONTENTS

MOVIES 4
Videos/DVDs 11
Summaries 12
MUSIC 14
Concerts 17
Clubs 23
ARTS/STAGE 25
Fine Art 27
Stage 30
DINING 31
ESCAPES 33
DENVER 39

COMING SUNDAY

The new fall TV shows worth setting the VCR for.

MUSIC MONDAY

New releases by David Bowie, Erykah Badu and Rancid.

ON THE COVER

Cover by The Gazette's Nichole Montañez.

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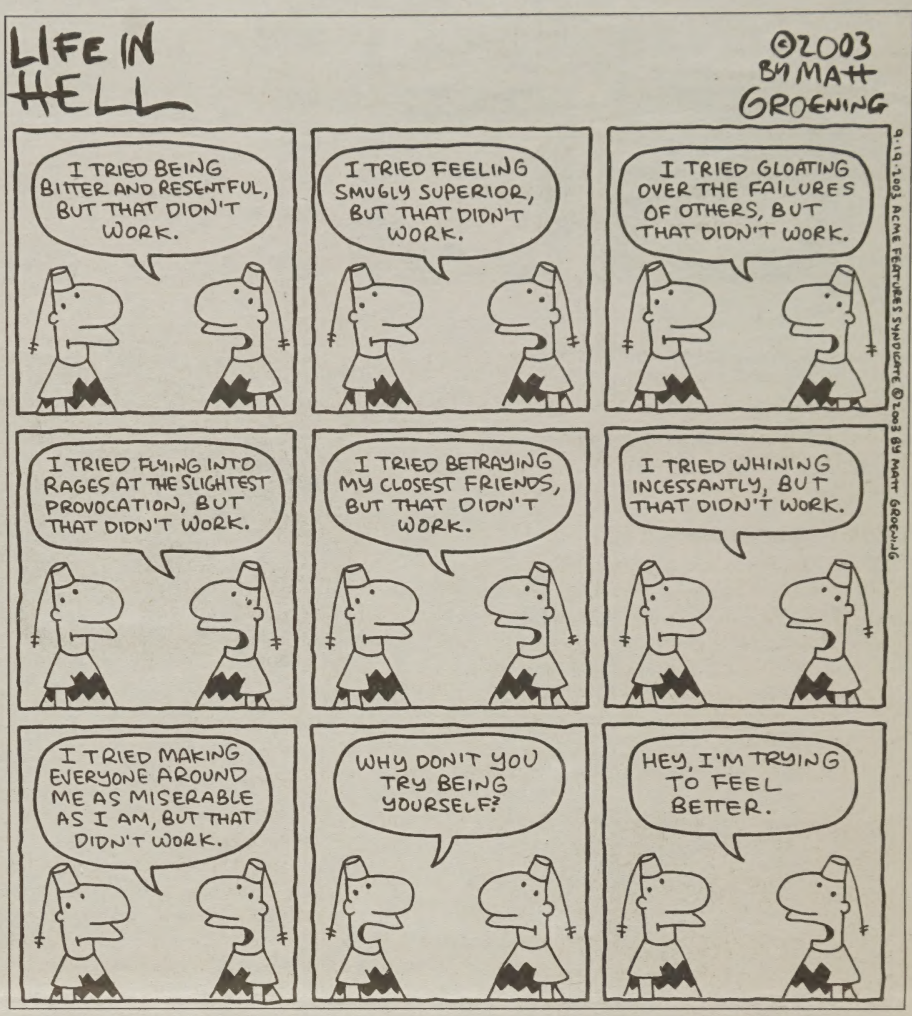
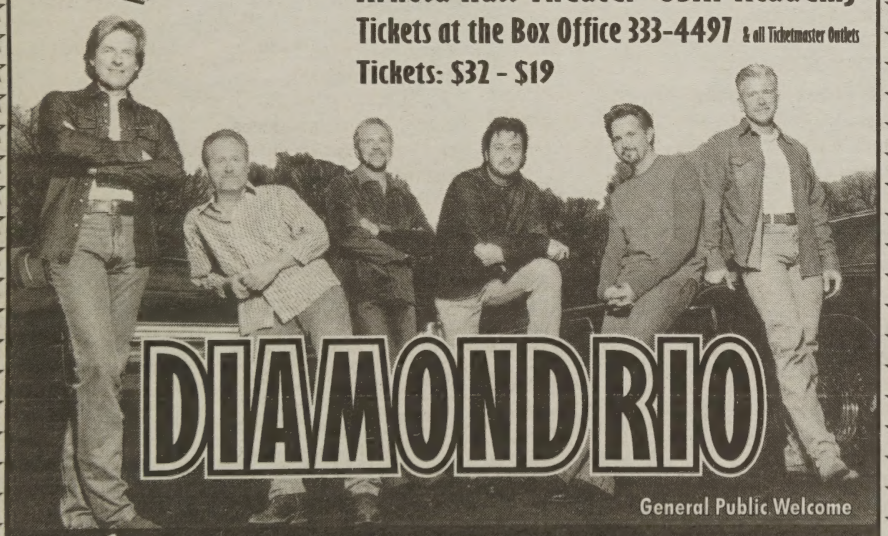

LIFE IN HELL
©2003 BY MATT GROENING
I TRIED BEING BITTER AND RESENTFUL, BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK.
I TRIED FEELING SMUGLY SUPERIOR, BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK.
I TRIED GLOATING OVER THE FAILURES OF OTHERS, BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK.
I TRIED FLYING INTO RAGES AT THE SLIGHTEST PROVOCATION, BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK.
I TRIED BETRAYING MY CLOSEST FRIENDS, BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK.
I TRIED WHINING INCESSANTLY, BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK.
I TRIED MAKING EVERYONE AROUND ME AS MISERABLE AS I AM, BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY BEING YOURSELF?
HEY, I'M TRYING TO FEEL BETTER.
9-19-2003 ACME FEATURES SYNDICATE ©2003 BY MATT GROENING

ACADEMY CONCERTS
YOUR TICKET TO THE STARS PRESENTS

Saturday, October 4 th 7:00 p.m.
Arnold Hall Theater USAF Academy
Tickets at the Box Office 333-4497 & all Ticketmaster Outlets
Tickets: $32 - $19



General Public Welcome

Coming Attractions!
Seussical THE MUSICAL - November, 1st
U.S. Army Field Band - November, 2nd

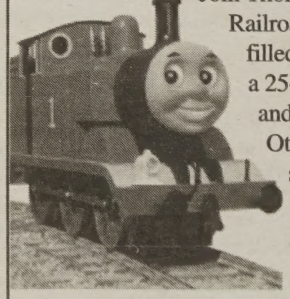
STEPPIN' OUT
Springs
KOAA-TV 5/30 Colorado Springs Pueblo
ticketmaster

No Federal Endorsement of Sponsors Intended

Thomas the Tank Engine™ Returns to the Colorado Railroad Museum!

DAY OUT WITH THOMAS

Our second annual Day Out With Thomas™ event is coming!
October 10-13 and 17-19
9 AM to 5:15 PM



Join Thomas at the Colorado Railroad Museum for a fun-filled day out! Families can take a 25-minute ride with Thomas and meet Sir Topham Hatt™. Other daily events include storytelling and videos, singalongs, temporary tattoos, and more. Events are included in ticket price.

For more information, call the museum at 303.279-4591.

Tickets sell out quickly, so make plans to order in advance!

Tickets are $14.00, plus $2.00 surcharge, for ages 1 and up.

For tickets, visit www.ticketweb.com or call toll-free 866.468.7630. Tickets also available at the Colorado Railroad Museum.

Ticket sales are final. Event runs rain or shine.

www.thomasthetankengine.com – www.crrm.org

"THE EVENT": Don McKellar and Olympia Dukakis star in this heart-wrenching portrait of a man with AIDS who decides to end it all.

"YES NURSE, NO NURSE!": This raucous, campy comedy features singing, dancing, dreaming and this thief, played by Waldemar Torenstra.

GAY, BUT NOT MERRY

Lavander Film Fest shows the hard realities of being homosexual today

By ROBIN A. ROTHMAN
THE GAZETTE

It's never been cooler to be queer, or so TV tells us these days. But the three-day Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival, now in its fourth year, reminds us that there's way more to being gay, lesbian and transgendered than fashion, food and decorating.

There are identity crises, secrets, manslaughter, rape, suicide and disease. There's also an overriding sense of pride.

Granted, there aren't a lot of laughs in this nine feature/nine short lineup. In fact, some of these films are downright devastating (in the best possible way).

All in all, the festival will leave you emotionally torn in so many ways you won't even be able to see straight.

Here's an inside look:

TODAY

6:30 p.m. Reception

7:30 p.m. Introductions

8 p.m.: "Ja Zuster, Nee Zuster!"/"Yes Nurse! No Nurse!" B- — The landlord, Boordevol (Paul Kooij), is determined to have them evicted, but Nurse Klivia (Loes Luca) and the young, able tenants of her so-called rest home have better things to do than worry. They're too busy singing and dancing in the streets, dreaming of the circus life and feeding pigeons. Taking choreography cues from the Busby Berkeley playbook, this flamboyant musical is chock full of sass and camp — not to mention cute costumes, silly subplots and even a little breakdancing. The love interest is guy-girl, but it's the gay hairdresser who saves the day. (2002, Netherlands, 1 hour, 44 minutes, Dutch with English subtitles. Preceded by the short "Clay Pride," 2002, U.S., 5 minutes.)

SATURDAY

Noon: "The Bridge Game" D — It's been exactly a year since Evie offed herself. If her friends were always this annoying, nobody should blame her. "The Bridge Game" is a B-movie pseudo-"Ya Ya." It's an after-school special for unhappy housewives revolving around four miserable card-playing women. Getting through it without wanting to throw yourself over a bridge too might not be so easy. (2002, U.S., 1 hour, 28 min. Preceded by the short "Stuck," 2002, U.S., 8 minutes)

2:30 p.m.: "9 Dead Gay Guys" C — This "Snatch"-style Brit flick features two straight(ish) broke Irish blokes who make their livings satisfying London's gay underground. Byron (Brendan Mackey) and Kenny (Glen Mulhern) are at the center of this convoluted, only slightly funny story about the quest for a stash of cash and the untimely demises of nine members of said scene. But it does have Steven Berkoff in it. And a dwarf. (2002, U.K., 1 hour, 23 minutes. Preceded by the short "The Moment After," 2002, U.S., 13 minutes.)

5:30 p.m.: "Benzina" / "Gasoline" C- — It's like "Thelma and Louise" on valium and without any need for Brad Pitt. Lenni (Regina Orioli) is a mousy rich girl gone astray. Stella (Maya Sansa) is a take-charge mechanic. The two young women are happy and in love. When Lenni's mother flips out, Stella comes to the rescue a little too hard, leaving mom in a pool of blood. The girls know they've got to run and they think fast, but they don't do it very well. We learn how similar Stella and mom are through endless posthumous dialog and lots of arty dead-looking-down POVs. (2001, Italy, 1 hour, 25 minutes, Italian with

SEE **LAVENDER** • PAGE 5

THE DETAILS

Fourth annual Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival

What: Three days of gay, lesbian, transgender-related films.

When: Today through Sunday

Where: Fine Arts Center Theater, 30 W. Dale St.

Cost: $70 for a full pass (nine shorts, nine features, opening and closing parties), $45 for a half pass (five shorts, five features, opening and closing parties), $30 for a day pass (four shorts, four features on Saturday or Sunday, closing party), $10 per individual show.

Contact: 386-6684; www.pplff.org

Tickets: Still available at the Fine Arts Center Theater box office.

LUEO IN

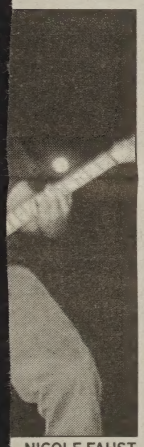
T. 19-25

s just the music of geezers, the Music Association is about to ne Young Folks Concert will per- at the Ute Pass Cultural Center, Woodland Park.
or free for kids under 18; call

ountain

ales Pikes Peak will become a ts Saturday. The Manitou and ill run vintage locomotives for a sion" at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.
summit and back, riders will get he yard and shop (generally not nd a demonstration of old-fash-

erson, which will cover lunch, drinks, a souvenir book and map.



NICOLE FAUST
UMS: Local H 32 Bleu.

Jazz on the hillside

One of the more floral outdoor concert options around town is the Hillside Gardens, 1006 S. Institute St., which will host two musical events this weekend.

The first is a contemporary jazz concert at 7 p.m. today. Tickets are $5.

The other ak Blues Summit. Look further n for details.

Scanlon will give a free slide Colorado Springs' niftiest histor- w Super Wal-Mart didn't make urday at the Pioneers Museum.
Pioneers Museum will host a re- entation; call 385-5990.

nmit

kes Peak Blues was finding out your backpack with Bear Chow. e heard about the Pikes Peak h will bring together a dozen r the Front Range. It'll be from the Hillside Gardens and Nurs- St., and if you've got the blues, It's free.

UPSY DAISY: Vintage locomotives will trundle up the area's most famous peak for a peek at the aspen.

Americana, the sequel

If you want to learn about America's musical history, you can take a college class or you can listen to pianist Tom O'Boyle. His fingers will do the teaching during "Americana II" at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Colorado Springs School, 21 Broadmoor Ave.

This will be a follow-up to last year's sold-out "Americana I," a tribute to Sept. 11.

Tickets are $5-$12.

Brahams beckons

When you put the Da Vinci Quartet together with pianist Susan Grace and flutist Paul Nagem, it's not just a concert, it's a Chamber Music Extravaganza.

Said Extravaganza, which is free, will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday at Colorado College's Packard Hall. Among the expected highlights: Brahams' "Piano Quartet in C Minor."

Plop in your quarters

The Denver Brass will play an oldies concert called "Jukebox Saturday" at 5 p.m. Sunday (yes, Sunday) as part of the Sacred Concert Series at First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave.

Tickets are $10-$20; call 471-4361.

H is for "hearing loss"

The alternative-rock duo Local H will test the structural integrity of 32 Bleu during a show at 9 p.m. Tuesday.

"I just think that there's a lot of screaming, and a lot of noise, and it works," singer Scott Lucas has said of their music.

What does the "H" stand for?

Fans at thehcorner.com have a few theories:

- It's a street in Zion, Ill., where kids were killed drag racing.
- It's a train wreck the band saw shaped like an H.
- It's based on a hospital sign (blue with a large H).
- "Local H" is an anagram for "alcohol."
- It's borrowed from R.E.M. lyrics.
- A good friend of the Lucas family was in the Local 8 (Stage Hands Union).

It could just be that Foreign G was taken. Whatever.

Tickets are $14 advance, $12 in advance through ticketweb.com.

Emotional aftermath of Sept. 11

Enough anguish to fill a nation for years gets boiled down to two characters and one dramatic evening in "The Guys." It's the story of a journalist's personal experiences in the aftermath of Sept. 11, presented at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday by the Actor's Gang at Pueblo's Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave.

Tickets are $20; call 1-719-295-7222.

Dark and stormy night

Before Frankie went to Hollywood, the scientist and his creation lived in the dark recesses of Mary Shelley's imagination. Students at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs will dive into those recesses for "Bloody Poetry," a drama about a meeting between Shelley and Lord Byron.

It will be performed at 9 p.m. Thursday through Sept. 27, with matinees at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 27 and 3 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Osborne Studio Theatre. Admission is $5; free for students.

WHO THE BEAR? You the Bear! The huggable Jim Henson character regularly appears on "Bear in the Big Blue House," which airs at 10:30 a.m. Mondays on KTSC/Channel 8.

THE JIM HENSON COMPANY

TICKET ALERT

BEAR OF A SHOW

The Bear is coming, and he's bringing his Big Blue House with him.

The PBS character and his friends (OK, we'll admit it – we're huge Tutter fans) will appear Nov. 6-9 at the Pikes Peak Center.

Tickets, which will sell for $13.50-$21.50, go on sale at 10 a.m. Monday at all Ticketmaster outlets; call 520-9090 or go to www.ticketmaster.com.

LAVENDER: Lifestyles shown from all angles

FROM PAGE 4

English subtitles. Preceded by the short "Binge Babes at the Truck Stop," 2002, Germany, 15 min.)

8 p.m.: "Leaving Metropolis" C+ — Matt (Vince Corazza) is a gay man trapped in a straight man's body. Violet (Cherilee Taylor) is his wife and co-owner of the Main Street Diner. David (Troy Ruptash) is a painter who needs some fresh inspiration. Who freed up David's creative block? The painting is on the canvas. Whose face does Matt see when he's pleasing his wife? A sudden boom in business at the diner — courtesy of David's journo friend — helps. But his HIV positive tranny friend is still sick. And Violet is still "Mrs. Married Guy." It's compelling, in a trashy kinda way. (2002, Canada, 1 hour, 29 minutes. Preceded by the short "Target Audience," 2002, U.S., 12 min.)

SUNDAY

11:30 a.m.: "Yossi & Jagger" A- — Jagger (Yehuda Levi) is an outgoing, fun-loving Israeli platoon commander whose mandatory service will soon be up. His lover, Yossi (Ohad Knoller), is a more serious, headstrong company commander who chooses to remain enlisted. Between occasional well-hidden trysts and ambushes, Jagger tries to persuade Yossi to leave the army with him, come out of the closet and take their relationship more seriously. Tension is what makes a movie interesting, and this one has plenty of that on several levels. That it was based on a true story only makes it more affecting. (2002, Israel, 1 hour, 11 min., Hebrew with English subtitles. Preceded by the short "The Visitor," 2002, U.S., 30 minutes.)

2 p.m.: "Blue Gate Crossing" B+ — In a touching and twisty teen love triangle, Meng Kerou (Guey Lun-mei) is a young lesbian with a secret thing for her best friend, Lin Yuezhen (Liang Shu-Hui). Yuezhen has a heart-wrenching crush on the athletic and decidedly male Zhang Shihao (Chen Bo-Lin). He's a Scorpio. He's in the guitar club. He's on the swimming team. But she's too shy to do anything more than acquire his basketball and discarded water bottles, so she sends her bolder best friend to act on her behalf. But Yuezhen's shyness backfires and Shihao ends up falling for Kerou. (2002, Taiwan, 1 hour, 25 min., Mandarin with English subtitles. Preceded by the short "Beauteous," 2002, U.S. 24 minutes.)

4:30 p.m.: "The Event" A — This is not the feel-good movie of the weekend, but it's hands-down the best. It even manages to evoke a few chuckles amid a tragic and thought-provoking topic — namely, assisted suicide. After seven years living with AIDS, Matt (Don McKellar) ran out of cocktail options. The event in question is a suicide party attended by his family and friends. In the days following his death, Nick (Parker Posey), who works for the New York district attorney's office, wants to find out who attended. Olympia Dukakis and Brent Carver also shine in an overall terrific cast. If you see only one film this weekend, make it this one. Not for the star power but for the power, period. (2002, Canada, 1 hour, 45 min. Preceded by the short "Paradisco France," 2002, France, 18 minutes, French with English subtitles.)

7:30 p.m.: "Prey for Rock & Roll" B- — This is what one might imagine Joan Jett's life would be like if she'd never hit and was still living in L.A. trying to catch a break. Jacki (Gina Gershon) is the lead singer/guitarist of Clam Dandy, an all-chick, semi-lesbian band. She's paying the bills as a tattoo artist. She's almost 40 and she wonders, "At what point do I become a joke?" Based on the play that was based on the life of real-life rocker chick Cheri Lovedog, the story has so many downward spirals it's dizzying and entrancing. Also stars Drea de Matteo ("The Sopranos") and Lori Petty ("Tank Girl"). (2002, U.S. 1 hour, 40 minutes, Preceded by the short "Sleeping Beauties," 2000, U.S., 12 minutes.)

9:30 p.m. Closing party at Hide n' Seek, 512 W. Colorado Ave.

nd Duvall are not ordinary, and

court reporting school and ends up engaged to a guy in Vegas. Things like that are always happening to her. Walter's first impression of Garth and Hub is a fearful one; they seem carved from a block of American Gothic and sit in their chairs on the porch like men who are prepared to wait for death no matter how long it takes. The summer will, however, not be boring, Walter understands, when the uncles start firing shotguns at unwanted visitors.

They have a lot of traffic on the farm because word has it they've got millions stashed

any millions at all.

The plot, such as it is, is hardly necessary. Yes, Mae turns up with the fiance from Vegas, and yes, he wants to get his hands on the money, but of course Hub can handle him. Even on the day he collapses and then checks himself out of the hospital, we see him punch out four louts in a local saloon and then give them the special speech he always gives to young men. It has to do with being able to believe in something even if it's not true, because the believing part is what's important.

Not a bad analogy for the movie.

TATIONS' WILL
U
Cuba & Beyoncé
Steve Harvey
EYONCÉ KNOWLES "THE FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS" MIKE EPPS
JIMMY JAM TERRY LEWIS AND JAMES "BIG JIM" WRIGHT
LORETHA JONES JEFF POLLACK STORY BY ELIZABETH HUNTER
IN K. PATTERSON DIRECTED BY JONATHAN LYNN
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MORE QUEER EYES

Film festival explores the complexities of modern gay life

PAGE 4